

Mayor Charles "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, October 3, 2016. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Retha Elston, Joe Martin, Chris Schuchard, John Stauter, and Chris Wilen. Absent: Aldermen Bob Conklin.

Also present were City Attorney Tim Zollinger, Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt, Finance Director Cindy Von Holten, Superintendent of Public Works Bard Schrader, Fire Chief Gary Cook, Police Lt. Alex Chavira, and City Clerk Marie Rombouts.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Lee read a letter from Mary Bowman at 605 West Tenth Street who thanked Code Enforcement for taking care of garbage problems in her neighborhood. Alderman Martin thanked the Police Department for their quick response to have a small fire extinguished.

Shirley Sharp explained that she had ideas how to eliminate gambling cafes. She stated that other communities are requiring a percentage of sales from beverages and food. The newspaper had a story that reported other communities requiring this. Sharp had brought this up to the City Manager and he said we could not do anything like that. Mayor Lee stated that he had attended a session at the Illinois Municipal League on gaming devices and many communities are disturbed about their growth. If we put a percentage on the intake from items other than gaming, several of our existing businesses would not meet those requirements. Lee stated that we are not home-rule, which limits our options. He is concerned that if we target gaming parlors specifically, we could be setting the City up for a lawsuit.

Rick Rajnowski, with Toys for Tots, stated that insurance was not turned in for their bucket brigade and the petition was not put on the agenda. He asked for an extension. Clerk Rombouts explained that he was reminded of the insurance requirement a couple weeks ago. The insurance was not provided before the agenda. Therefore, the petition was not on the agenda and could not be acted on.

Attorney Zollinger confirmed that the petition was not on the agenda and the Council could not act on it.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- A) Approval of Minutes from September 19, 2016
- B) Approval of Bills and Payroll in the amount of \$472,087.46
- C) Halloween Trick or Treating for Monday, October 31, 2016 from 4:30 to 7:30 pm

- D) Bucket Brigade for Hospice of the Rock River Valley on October 29, 2016
- E) Partial Pay Request #6 for Sixth Avenue Reconstruction to Martin & Company in the amount of \$120,773.57
- F) Partial Pay Request #2 for Wallace Street/Avenue B to O'Brien Civil Works in the amount of \$68,906.85
- G) Final pay Request for Sixth Avenue and Eighth Avenue to Twin City Construction in the amount of \$54,783.14
- H) Final Pay Request for ADA Compliant Intersections at Third Street/Fourth Avenue and Second Street/First Avenue to Twin City Construction in the amount of \$18,928.50

The motion was seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Stauter made a motion to approve the Proclamation Designating October 9 – 15, 2016, as Fire Prevention Week; seconded by Alderman Schuchard. Chief Cook strongly urged citizens to check their smoke detectors and replace them after ten years of the manufacture date. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried. Mayor Lee read the proclamation into the record.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the Proclamation Declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month; seconded by Alderman Wilen. Voting: Aldermen Elston, Martin Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Stauter made a motion to approve the Proclamation for Stock Our Local Food Pantries Day on October 5, 2016; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Jerry Funk with WIPFi presented the Annual Financial Report. He stated that required communication has replaced the old management letter. There were no adjustments. The new GASB 68 and 71 reporting pension liabilities is the biggest change. WIPFLi provided a clean opinion with no findings. Funk thanked Cindy and her staff for their help with this audit.

Alderman Stauter made a motion to accept the April 30, 2016 Audited Financial Statements and place them on file; seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Superintendent Schmidt announced that yard waste will be picked up through December 9, no pick up through the winter, and will resume March 13. Christmas trees will be picked up the first week of January, like usual.

Alderman Martin extended condolences to the Adell family, upon Wally's passing. Martin stated that he served for 12 years with Wally. Martin also extended condolences to the Arlyn Oetting family on the passing of his grandson.

Alderman Elston thanked the Council for the opportunity to attend the Illinois Municipal League. She noted the remarkable change in the Public Works building. Elston also thanked the Police Department for responding to their alley when a garbage truck took down the phone line.

Alderman Stauter reiterated Martin's comments on the losses to our community. Stauter expressed concern over a robo-call made by Mayor Lee supporting a candidate in the upcoming election. Stauter stated he had been approached about this call and stated that it is solely Mayor Lee's opinion, not the opinion of the Council. Sterling is a non-partisan community.

Alderman Schuchard encouraged everyone to do their research on the candidates and not vote because of someone's recommendation.

Clerk Rombouts announced that petitions can be circulated for Alderman-at-Large. The filing period is in November.

Alderman Martin asked how the pennant signs are monitored or the small signs at the Mall for the shoe store. He believes businesses are abusing the sign code. Superintendent Schmidt stated the flag signs are considered a temporary sign which means they can be up 15 days and come down 15 days. Schmidt has sent letters to remove the temporary signs and then is accused of not being business friendly. She stated that Code Enforcement needs the support of the Council when asking for compliance. Signs like the political signs are removed from City right-of-way on a regular basis. Mayor Lee asked if we are going to be reviewing the sign code. Schmidt stated the Plan Commission brought that subject up at the last meeting.

Mayor Lee stated that IML was interesting. He was angry in the gaming devices session. The state is expecting more from the municipalities. Lee stated that he talked with Republic Services. They were interested to see our e-waste disposal is going because it is a growing problem across the state. Mayor Lee asked for a moment of silence for the Adell and Oetting families.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm.

Marie Rombouts
City Clerk